

The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 13 May 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
13 MAY 1967

1. Venezuela

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2. Dominican Republic

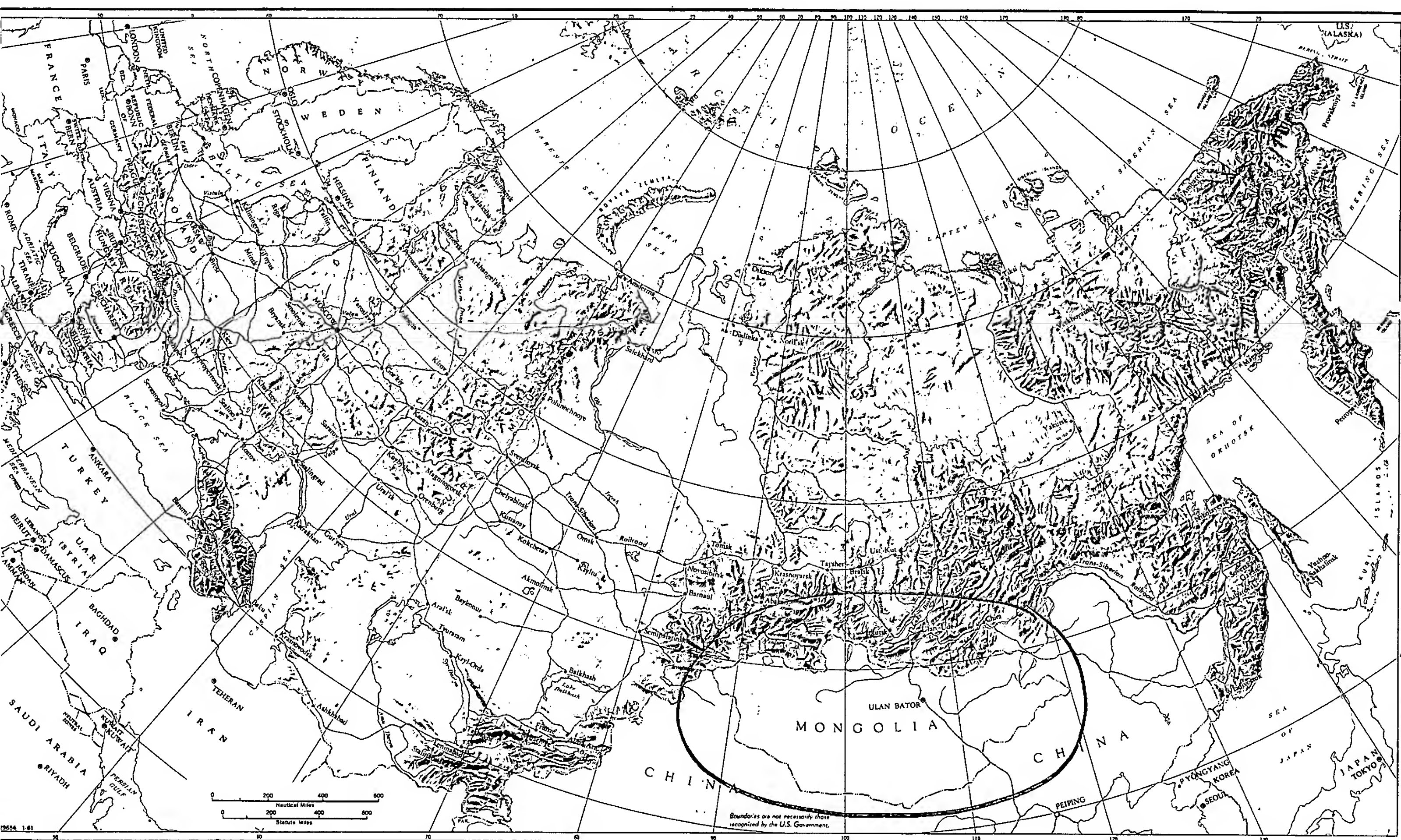
Political vendettas and counter-vendettas are at the heart of the recent round of violence in the capital. The latest--the machine-gun murder of two members of the Santo Domingo municipal government--has put the populace badly on edge. Many Dominicans are getting the impression that they are in the midst of a wave of terror which the regime cannot control.

The authorities have reacted by stepping up military and police patrols in Santo Domingo. The police, however, say they have "solved" only one of the terrorist cases.

We see no evidence of a coordinated plan of violence. The situation is getting so unsettled, however, that extremists of one stripe or another might decide to mount a major provocation against the government.

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3. Vietnam

The North Vietnamese seem to want a war of attrition in the two provinces just south of the Demilitarized Zone.

In a CIA assessment completed this week, we have wrung out the available evidence and we conclude that the enemy is not trying to "liberate" these provinces now. Instead, we feel, the Communists hope to create the illusion of "a war no one can win."

Attacks will be aimed at spreading US forces thin and keeping them under constant pressure without offering the opportunity for a clear-cut allied victory. We believe up to five enemy divisions may now be involved along the zone and in the mountain redoubts to the south.

4. Soviet Union

The Soviets are increasing their military presence in Mongolia and they may be about to station a few combat units there. The British ambassador to Ulan Bator says that Russian air force troops are arriving by rail and that many Russian field grade officers have been seen in the capital since March. One Soviet motor pool there has doubled in size since late April.

5. Israel

The Israelis continue to threaten the Syrians with retaliation for recent Syrian-supported terrorist incidents. Prime Minister Eshkol has warned publicly that "if there is no other way out," Israel will be forced to take "appropriate means of action" to punish Syria.

New trouble with Jordan is another real possibility. On Monday, the Israelis plan to stage a military parade--perhaps with heavy weapons--in Jerusalem. This would be a clear violation of the armistice of 1949; a nasty incident in the divided city may result.

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